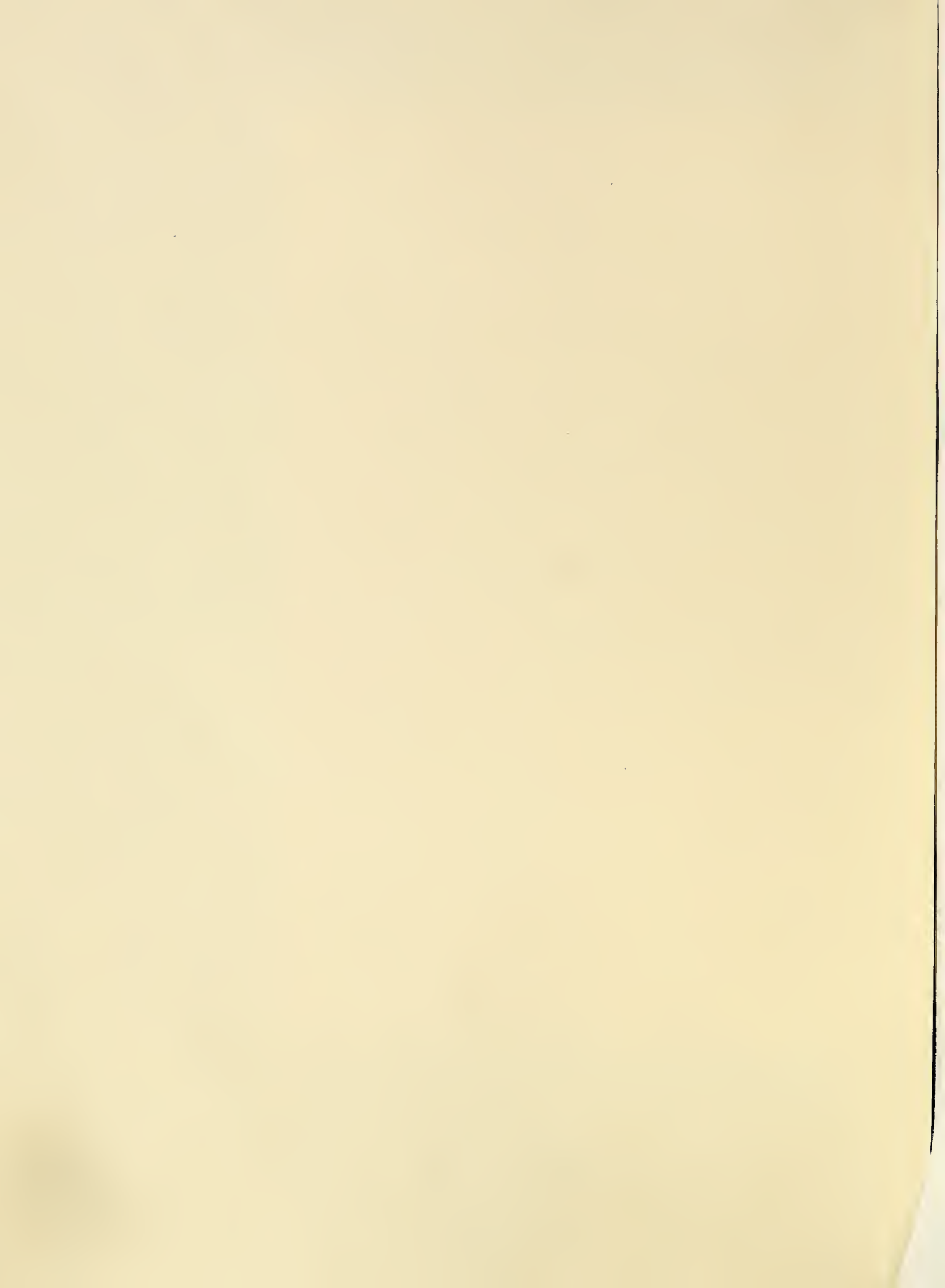


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# **arm Broadcasters Letter**

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

Letter No. 2506

May 3, 1991



**PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH** speaks to farm broadcasters from across the nation during the Washington AG Watch '91, the last week in April. The broadcasters heard from a number of speakers, including Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan, about the agricultural issues facing this country & the world in the years ahead. (White House Photo by Susan Biddle.)

**AMERICANS MAY EAT MORE CALORIES** than the experts think, USDA scientists say. According to Walter Mertz, director of USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center, findings from 12 long-term studies at the center "suggest a substantial under-estimation of food intake for the U.S. population in general." The 266 volunteers participating in the studies said they ate about 18 percent fewer calories than they actually needed to maintain weight. If substantiated in larger studies, the findings have far-reaching implications, including helping to explain why the nation's food intake data don't account for the population's increasing weight. Contact: Walter Mertz (301) 344-4095.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS** -- A new "How to Get Information from USDA" book is now available. It lists USDA public affairs & agency information offices, along with a USDA organizational chart & a USDA subject index. For a copy, contact: Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445. Media only, please.

**REBUILDING PERSIAN GULF FOOD MARKET** -- What's in demand in the Persian Gulf now that the war is over? According to **Phil Letarte**, the U.S. ag trade officer in Manama, Bahrain, there is an immediate need for imports of basic foods -- canned foods of all types, soups, juices, dried fruits, nuts. The food trade has been destroyed in Kuwait. Letarte sees these specific opportunities now for U.S. exporters: dried fruits, high-quality meats, poultry, juices -- citrus & vegetable -- especially canned rather than frozen, snack foods, chips & peanuts. **Contact: Lynn Goldsbrough (202) 382-9442.**

**DOGWOOD FUNGUS DISCOVERED** -- A USDA scientist has found the cause of the mysterious disease that has been killing dogwood trees in the northeast. **Scott C. Redlin**, the USDA scientist who identified dogwood anthracnose, says identifying the organism was the first step in solving the dogwood dilemma. "Now that we know which fungus is causing the disease, the next step is to develop methods to control it," Redlin says. Disease symptoms include leaf spots & twig dieback. **Contact: Scott C. Redlin (301) 344-2280.**

**MICROBIOLOGICAL COMMITTEE TO MEET** -- Subcommittees of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods will meet May 13-15 at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago. The committee advises the secretary of agriculture & the secretary of health & human services on criteria for assessing food safety & wholesomeness, as well as the effectiveness of food manufacturing practices. The meetings are open to the public. **Contact: Jim Greene (202) 382-0314.**

**FRIENDSHIP GARDEN ILLUSTRATES NEW GARDEN ETHIC** -- Why not plant a friendship garden? One designed to illustrate the new American garden ethic -- gardens & landscapes planned to thrive with minimal maintenance. **H. Marc Cathey**, director of the USDA's National Arboretum, says the concept calls for gardens filled with plants that do not have a constant need to be watered, fertilized, pruned or sprayed for insects. Cathey recently dedicated a "Friendship Garden" at the arboretum. "This new garden shows how a beautiful landscape can be created that has interest and color all year round without the need for continual work or pesticides," Cathey says. **Contact: H. Marc Cathey (202) 475-4829.**

**NEWCASTLE DISEASE AGAIN THREATENS** -- Prompted by two new outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease in 60 yellownape parrots, USDA is warning those who buy exotic birds to be sure the birds they buy meet federal requirements for quarantine & disease testing. **James W. Glosser**, administrator of USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, says buyers should make certain the birds they buy are wearing the circular stainless steel USDA-approved leg band. The band has three letters & three numbers & indicates the bird has met federal import requirements for quarantine & testing. **Contact: Margaret Webb (301) 436-7799.**

*Editor: Marci Hilt Phone: (202) 447-6445*



## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

- AGRICULTURE USA #1769** -- Forget the farm bill for awhile. Now the big debate is on free trade agreements & the administration's desire to have "fast track" authority to negotiate those agreements. **Brenda Curtis** has the story. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)
- CONSUMER TIME #1251** -- Better tornado warnings; reading food labels; controlling pesticide waste; child custody issues; gas saving scams. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)
- AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1759** -- USDA News Highlights; Germany still divided on ag marketing approaches; a "fast track" action plan; cattle marketing on the rise. (Weekly reel of news features.)
- NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1418** -- Arctic bacterium helps legume; sainfoin -- bloat-free legume; pasta flour aids biocontrol; worm-resistant sheep; amylose -- tasty & nutritious. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)
- UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Thurs., May 9, U.S. crop production, world ag supply & demand; Fri., May 10, world ag/grain situation, world oilseed situation, world cotton situation; Tues., May 14, crop/weather update, Soviet ag outlook, farm labor report; Wed., May 15, U.S. livestock/poultry outlook, milk production; Fri., May 17, cattle on feed, U.S. ag outlook, world dairy outlook. (These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling!)

**DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**  
Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

(Week of May 2, 4 & 6, 1991)

- FEATURES --** **Pat O'Leary** reports on the national pesticide applicator training program; **DeBoria Janifer** on healthy weights for Americans; **Will Pemble** on USDA research to measure the salt content of soils.
- ACTUALITIES --** Excerpts from President George Bush talking to farm broadcasters at a Washington, D.C., news conference April 29; U.S. Trade Representative **Carla Hills** on fast track authority for the North American Free Trade Agreement; **Norton Strommen**, USDA meteorologist, with a crop & weather update; USDA Economist **James Schaub** with the latest oil crops outlook; **Janet Livezey**, USDA economist, on the U.S. rice situation; USDA Economist **Nathan Childs** on farm equipment sales.
- UPCOMING FEATURES --** **Pat O'Leary** reports on tree planting around the world; **Lynn Wyvill** on safer handling of consumer foods; **DeBoria Janifer** on growing & selling herbs.
- EVERY OTHER WEEK --** "Ag Update," five-minutes of USDA farm program information, presented in news-desk format with B-Roll.

Available on Satellite Westar IV, Transponder 12D (Channel 23), audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY . . . . . 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT  
SATURDAY . . . . . 10 - 10:45 a.m., EDT  
MONDAY . . . . . 8 - 8:45 a.m., EDT

## OFFMIKE

**TORNADOES**...are causing a tremendous amount of property damage in Kansas, says Rex Childs (KFDI, Wichita). Several mobile homes, farm buildings & houses have been flattened & scattered. Rex says much of the wheat crop needs more moisture, but recent rains have helped.

**SMALL GRAINS**...are about half in & row crops will be completed by early May in the region served by Larry Ristvedt (KFGO, Fargo, N.D.). Subsoil moisture remains short, but recent rains will help get growth underway. Larry says the outlook calls for more rain. Getting into the fields seems to have improved producer attitudes.

**FIELD WORK**...is averaging five days behind schedule in Kentucky due to wetness, but a few days of dry weather could get planting on schedule, says Allen Aldridge (Kentucky Agrinet, Louisville). Tobacco producers are concerned that if rain continues, bedding plants will be ready to plant before the ground is prepared.

### ***Farm Broadcasters Letter***

Office of Public Affairs  
Radio-TV Division  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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**FARM TOUR**...of Hawaii presented interesting insights to what confronts producers who farm in paradise, says Bob Bosold (Central Ag News Net, EauClaire, Wisc.). Milk prices are higher than on the mainland, but costs of labor, land & feed eats into profits. Hiring experienced help at rates competitive to that paid by the tourist industry is a major problem.

**PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM**...is scheduled for two counties in the area served by David Biggs (WSDR, Sterling, Ill.). If approved, the tax funds would be used to help county Extension Service offices remain open, rather than be combined into a regional service.

**FARMFEST '91**...will be held Aug. 6-8 in Austin, Minn., says Lynn Ketelsen (Linder Farm Network, Willmar, Minn.). Lynn and Orion Samuelson (WGN/Tribune Radio Network, Chicago, Ill.) will host a noon-hour stage show that will be broadcast live.

*Vic Powell*  
**VIC POWELL**  
Chief, Radio & TV Division